

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BRUSSE 10558 311142Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 AGRE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 EA-12 NEA-11 ICA-20
OPIC-06 SS-15 /131 W
-----020605 311309Z /72

R 311139Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6938
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS BRUSSELS 10558

USEEC

PASS AGRICULTURE ELECTRONICALLY
PARIS ALSO FOR USOECD
GENEVA ALSO FOR USMTN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR, EEC
SUBJ: EC - ACP SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 5342

1. THE EC - ACP SUGAR NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH BEGAN MARCH 24, WERE SUSPENDED THE NIGHT OF MAY . THE NEGOTIATIONS CONCERN THE GUARANTEED PRICE BE APPLIED TO THE 1.3 MILLION TONS OF SUGAR THE COMMUNITY HAS AGREED TO IMPORT ANNUALLY FROM THE ACP COUNTRIES (INCLUDING INDIA) UNDER THE LOME CONVENTION. THE SUSPENSION S AGREED UPON BY MUTUAL CONSENT AFTER AN APPARENT IMPASSE HAD BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES ON THE PRICE LEVEL. A "PERIOD OF REFLECTION" IS NOW EXPECTED TO ENSUE; HOWEVER, AGREEMENT ON THE PRICE PRESUMABLY MUST BE REACHED BEFORE THE END OF THE 1977/78 EC SUGAR MARKETING
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YEAR ON JUNE 30, 1978.

2. ACCORDING TO COMMISSION OFFICIALS, THE EC OFFERED TO INCREASE THE GUARANTEED PRICE FOR ACP SUGAR BY 2 PERCENT - THE SAME INCREASE GRANTED EC SUGAR PRODUCERS IN THE COURSE OF THE 1978/79 PRICE FIXING NEGOTIATIONS. THE ACP COUNTRIES SOUGHT AN UNSPECIFIED, HIGHER RATE OF INCREASE.

THE GUARANTEED PRICE FOR ACP RAW SUGAR IS IN FACT THE SAME AS THE INTERVENTION PRICE FOR RAW BEET SUGAR. IN THE CASE OF WHITE SUGAR, THE EC SETS VARIOUS DERIVED INTERVENTION PRICES THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY WITH THE BASIC INTERVENTION PRICE SET FOR NORTHERN FRANCE. THE GUARANTEED PRICE FOR ACP WHITE SUGAR IS THE SAME AS THE DERIVED INTERVENTION PRICE SET FOR THE U.K., WHICH IS ABOUT 10 U.A./M.T. ABOVE THE INTERVENTION PRICE SET FOR NORTHERN FRANCE. ONLY ABOUT 30,000 TONS OF WHITE SUGAR TER UNDER THE ACP QUOTA.

3. COMMISSION POINTED OUT THAT THE SUGAR PROTOCOL OF THE LOME CONVENTION PERMITS THE ACP COUNTRIES TO SELL THE AMOUNT OF THEIR QUOTA WITHIN THE COMMUNITY EITHER COMMERCIALY OR TO EC INTERVENTION AGENCIES AT THE NEGOTIATED GUARANTEED PRICE. THUS, THIS GUARANTEED PRICE IS A FLOOR OR MINIMUM. IN PRACTICE, ACP SUGAR HAS NOT THUS FAR BEEN SOLD DIRECTLY INTO INTERVENTION.HINTON

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